

contact with 1st or 1st and 2 labials. *Loreal*.—One-half the length of the nasals. *Praocular*.—One. *Postoculars*.—Three. *Temporals*.—One or two anteriorly. *Supralabials* 8, the 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye. *Posterior sublinguals* longer than interior, in contact with the 5th, 6th and 7th infra-labials. *Costals*.—Two headlengths, behind head 19, midbody 19, two headlengths before vent 17. In the reduction from 19 to 17 the 4th row is absorbed into the 3rd or 5th keels present, in all rows posteriorly. *Ventrals*.—173 to 199. *Anal*.—Divided. *Subcaudals*.—80 to 88 divided.

Colour.—Olive-brown or olive-green dorsally with 6 series of indistinct pale roundish spots arranged quincuncially, the median most indistinct. Head dark olive green, or brown above. A white moustache on the upper lip to behind the gape where it may or may not meet a whitish lateral nuchal streak. A small round pale spot on each parietal near the middle, and close to the inter-parietal suture. Chin heavily powdered with black. Belly yellowish (whitish?) heavily powdered laterally, the powdering increasing towards the median line posteriorly.

The differences between *chrysargus* and *firthi* are as follows, but as it is extremely probable that specimens of both are included under the former name by Mr. Boulenger in his Catalogue, I give the characters present in 12 specimens of *chrysargus* in the Indian Museum—all from Tenasserim—including the skull of a Tenasserim specimen in my collection :—

	Ventrals.	Subcaudals.	Labials.	Labials touching eye.	Maxillary teeth.	Palatine teeth.	Pterygoid teeth.	Mandibular teeth.
<i>firthi</i>	173-199	80-88	8	345	†18-19	12?-13?	19?-21?	21 ?
<i>chrysargus</i>	156-166	91-102	*9	*456	†35-37	20 ?-23	38	38-40

* 10 Labials, the 5th, 6th and 7th touching the eye in one specimen on the left side.

† In both species there is a gap at the back of the maxilla followed by two enlarged teeth.

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ALMORA, 25th April 1914.

No. XXXI.—A NEW SNAKE FROM BALUCHISTAN.

DIPSADOMORPHUS JOLLYI.

Our Society has lately received through Captain Jolly, I.M.S., from Kacha Thana, Baluchistan, among other snakes, a single specimen of the genus *Dipsadomorphus* that deserves recognition as a species new to science. Though the head is rather badly damaged, the lepidosis on both sides is open to accurate observation. I propose to associate it with the name of its discoverer.

Description.—*Rostral*.—Touches 6 shields; the rostro-nasal and rostro-internasal sutures subequal. *Internasals*.—A pair; the suture between them about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{5}$ that between the præfrontal fellows, and about $\frac{2}{3}$ the

internaso-præfrontal sutures. *Præfrontals*.—A pair; the suture between them greater than the præfronto-frontal. *Frontal*.—Touches 8 shields; the fronto-supraocular sutures subequal to the fronto-parietals. *Nasals*.—Divided; in contact with the 1st and 2nd supralabials. *Loreal*.—One, touching the eye beneath the præocular.

Præocular.—One, just touching the frontal. *Postoculars*.—Two. *Temporals*.—Small and scale-like. *Supralabials*.—8, the 3rd, 4th and 5th touching the eye. *Infralabials*.—6; the 5th and 6th touching the posterior sublinguals. *Sublinguals*.—Two pairs. *Costals*.—Two headlengths from the head 25, in midbody 25, two headlengths before the vent 17. The vertebrals feebly enlarged, the breadth less than the length. *Ventrals*.—268. *Anal*.—Entire. *Subcaudals*.—7. The tail is mostly missing.

Length about $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the stump of the tail $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

Colour.—Dirty buff with the following very distinct, but ill-defined, blackish marks dorsally. A series of short crossbars down the back involving about 4 scales in the length of the snake anteriorly, 3 posteriorly, and separated by intervals about one scale long (often parts of two scales). Two series of costal spots alternating with one another, and the upper alternating with the vertebral bars.

Head greyish with no postocular, occipital, or nuchal marks. Belly uniform blackish.

The anterior palatine teeth are enlarged but not very markedly so.

It seems to resemble *D. cynodon* in its lepidosis more closely than the other previously described species, but is very distinct in having the vertebrals feebly enlarged, and the loreal in contact with the eye.

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MAJOR, I.M.S.

ALMORA, 3rd January 1914.

No. XXXII.—REMARKS TO SHOW THAT THE SNAKE HITHERTO KNOWN AS *ZAMENIS MUCOSUS* HAS BEEN MISPLACED, AND SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE GENUS *ZAOCCYS*.

In my popular paper on the Dhaman (*Zamenis mucosus*) in this Journal (Vol. XVII, p. 271), I remarked on a peculiarity in the absorption of the scale rows. On examining a specimen of this snake, we find that just behind the middle of the body (very rarely before) the scale rows which up to this point number 17, reduce to 16 by the absorption of the vertebral row into the uppermost row on the left side. Later the rows further reduce to 14 or 12, by the absorption of the 3rd row above the ventrals on each side. In no other snake with which I am acquainted in Asia from Persia to Japan is a similar peculiarity to be seen. The scale rows in all other species except those of the Genus *Zaocys* being in odd rows in the whole bodylength, whether the rows reduce in number or not. In the Genus *Zaocys* however, the rows are in even numbers. The Genus is a small one which comprised but six species when Mr. Boulenger's Catalogue appeared (Vol. I) in 1893. I have had opportunities of examining, but three of those six species, viz., *Z. dhumnades* from China, *Z. nigromarginatus* from Assam and *Z. tenasserimansis* from Tenasserim. In all these species I find the vertebral row is absorbed into the uppermost row on the left side shortly behind the parietal shields, and from this point the rows are in even numbers. In other words the same remarkable absorption occurs that we see in *Zamenis mucosus* only it is in the neck instead of about midbody. In the three *Zaocys* referred to the scale rows further reduce to 14 by an absorption of the 3rd row above the ventrals.